

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /226 W

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R 101650Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 334

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3473

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, US, FR

SUBJ: EC-US ARTICLE XXIV:6 RENEGOTIATIONS - GRAINS

REF: GENEVA 3448

1. AT LUNCHEON JULY 10 PROPPS ASKED COLMANT, LOCAL FRENCH PERMREP, WHETHER FRANCE FAVORS OR OPPOSES CONTINUANCE OF GRAINS PORTION OF XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND TERMINATION OF LATTER AND INTO MTN (SEE PARA 2 REFTEL). COLMANT SAID, "THIS WILL BE DECIDED AT THE JULY 23-24 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL."

2. FROM OTHER REMARKS OF COLMANT IT APPEARS THAT THERE MAY BE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN FRENCH POSITION THAN KUEHN INDICATED. COLMANT INDICATED SOME POSSIBILITY THAT EC MIGHT IMPROVE ITS "GLOBAL OFFER";

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MAIN QUESTION IN HIS MIND SEEMED TO BE WHETHER EC SHOULD

DO SO NOW, AT JULY 23-24 COUNCIL, OR LATER. HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN PROBABLE US REQUEST AND EC OFFER WOULD BE GREATER NOW THAN LATER AND THAT IT WOULD THEREFORE BE IN MUTUAL US AND EC INTEREST TO DEFER SETTLE-

MENT.

3. PROPPS SOUGHT IMPRESS UPON COLMANT DESIRABILITY OF "SETTLING" XXIV:6 NOW, SO AS TO (A) AVOID OCCASION FOR US CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL, AND (B) STRENGTHEN PHILOSOPHY - DEAR TO BOTH EC AND US - THAT OVERALL RECIPROCITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND TRADE AGREEMENTS. PROPPS SAID US REQUESTS, IF EC WERE WILLING RECEIVE THEM, WOULD COVER ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE US INDUSTRIAL CLAIMS ITEMS AND REQUESTS ON AGRICULTURAL ITEMS OTHER THAN GRAINS WOULD BE REASONABLE IN RELATION TO US CLAIMS ON SUCH ITEMS.

4. COLMANT REMAINED SKEPTICAL AS TO WHETHER EC SHOULD ENTERTAIN US REQUESTS NOW, SINCE THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE LARGER THAN THE EC COULD SATISFY IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND SINCE EC FAILURE TO SATISFY THEM COULD ADD TO DIFFICULTY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON MORE IMPORTANT (I.E., MONETARY) QUESTIONS. COLMANT ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT WERE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS TO TERMINATE WITHOUT AGREEMENT AND WITH "IMPORTANT" US COMPENSATORY WITHDRAWALS, MANY IN THE EC WOULD BE SHOCKED. HE FELT THAT THIS POINT WAS INSUFFICIENTLY APPRECIATED AT MINISTERIAL LEVELS IN EC. BASSIN

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